



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all Sizes

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Contact: Frank A. Adinolfi or Matt Young

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Phone: 404-347-3771

SBA TO STAY IN WALTON COUNTY

SBA URGES APPLICATION RETURN - DON'T WAIT FOR INSURANCE SETTLEMENT

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loan staff will remain in Walton County after the joint state/federal disaster recovery center closes according to SBA Acting Disaster Area Director Frank Skaggs.

Beginning Monday, August 8, SBA will operate a SBA Disaster Outreach Center at the prior disaster recovery center location in Walton County. SBA representatives will be available in Walton County at the Coastal Branch Library, 336 Greenway Trail in Santa Rosa Beach, with hours on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., until further notice.

“I thought it was important to have our loan staff stay in Walton County a little while longer to help area homeowners, renters, and business owners that still need help with the SBA loan application process. Providing individual help is an important part of what we do to help people recover from a disaster,” Skaggs said.

“Don’t wait to settle your insurance claim before turning in your completed SBA disaster loan application. SBA loan officers do not need insurance settlement information to process your application. We don’t want anyone that had damages from Hurricane Dennis to miss the September 8 application deadline for physical damages,” added Skaggs.

For an individual with personal property and/or home losses, a completed application will also keep the door open to other types of assistance. Those homeowners and renters who do not return a completed SBA application may be disqualifying themselves from other types of assistance, including possible grant assistance.

Even if you have insurance, you should call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) and register for assistance. This one call will get you referred to the agency best able to meet your disaster-related needs, Skaggs added.

Information on SBA loan applications is also available by calling the SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (for the hearing-impaired 1-800-877-8339) or visiting the SBA Website at www.SBA.gov/disaster. Completed applications can be taken to the office in Santa Rosa Beach or can be mailed to: Disaster Assistance Loan Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76155.

The deadline for returning applications for physical damage is September 8, 2005; the deadline to return economic injury applications is April 10, 2006.

For more information visit SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/disaster

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SBA Disaster Assistance Office - Area 2—One Baltimore Place, Suite 300—Atlanta, GA 30308